

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 selecting a set of candidate products to be developed;

4 calculating a set of financial projections for each candidate product, the
5 set providing a future profit determination for each pf a set pf possible product
6 introduction dates;

7 providing at least one project definition for each candidate product, such
8 project definitions each including a development schedule and resource
9 requirements;

10 providing a set of available resources; and

11 generating a development schedule from the set of candidate products to
12 maximize profit, wherein the schedule provides fro product development in
13 accordance with project definition and resource constraints.

14 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the project definitions include a plurality
15 of ordered tasks, with each task containing a time requirement, a resource
16 requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the
17 project.

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1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein a candidate product includes at least two
2 project definitions, and wherein the generating step includes the step of selecting
3 one of the at least two project definitions in the development schedule.

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1 4. A system for selecting a portfolio of products to be developed, comprising:

2 a set of candidate products;

3 a set of financial projections associated with each candidate product,
4 wherein the set provides a plurality of profit projections for each of a set of
5 possible introduction dates for the associated candidate product;

6 at least one project definition associated with each candidate product,
7 each of such product definitions including a development schedule and resource
8 requirements;

9 a set of available resources; and

10 a planning engine for reading in the set of candidate products, the sets of
11 financial projections, the project definitions, and the available resources, and
12 selecting a set of candidate products which meets all resource availability
13 constraints and maximizes profits, and for generating a development schedule
14 for the selected set of candidate products.

15 5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the project definitions include a plurality of
16 ordered tasks, with each task containing a time requirement, a resource
17 requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the
18 project.

1 6. The system of Claim 4, wherein a candidate product includes at least two
2 project definitions, and wherein the planning engine selects one of the at least
3 two project definitions for inclusion in the development schedule.

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